

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus that performs an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing for a different image processing apparatus, comprising:

registration means for registering registration information for a user who is authorized to use said image processing apparatus;

input means for entering user information and the first operating instruction for said image processing apparatus, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation, and the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing operation;

first authentication means for employing the registration information registered by said registration means and the user information entered by said input means to determine whether the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user;

transmission means for, based on results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to the different image processing apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered by said input means;

second authentication means for obtaining from the different image processing apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from said transmission means, to determine whether the second operating instruction for printing is authorized for the user on ~~said~~ the different image processing apparatus; and

determination means for employing the results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use said image processing apparatus in conjunction with the different image processing apparatus to perform the first and second operating instructions of the image processing service, wherein when (a) said first authentication means determines that the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user, and (b) said determination means determines that the user is permitted to use the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by said image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by the different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the registration information and the user information each include[[s]] at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein the second operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by said scanner means using a printer function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by said scanner means using a storage function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

scanner means for reading a document,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by said scanner means by using a facsimile transmission function of the different image processing

apparatus.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus that performs, in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction about image processing, an image processing service provided by a second operating instruction about image processing, comprising:

registration means for registering registration information for a user who is permitted to use said image processing apparatus;

reception means for receiving user information and the second operating instruction for said image processing apparatus from [[a]] the different image processing apparatus, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation, and the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing operation;

authentication means for employing the registration information registered by said registration means and the user information received by said reception means to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction for scanning is authenticated to be performed on the different image processing apparatus; and

determination means for employing results obtained by said authentication means to determine whether the second operating instruction received by said reception

means is to be accepted, wherein when (a) said authentication means determines that the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user, and (b) said determination means determines that the user is permitted to perform the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by said image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the registration information and the user information each include[[s]] at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 8 (Presently Presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

printing means for outputting data to a printer,

wherein the second operating instruction is an instruction for employing said printing means to print image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

storage means for storing data,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for employing said storage means to store image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

facsimile transmission means for transmitting data by facsimile,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for employing said facsimile transmission means to transmit, to a predetermined destination, image data read by a scanner function of the different apparatus.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A communication system comprising at least a first image processing device that performs an image processing service in association with a second image processing device,

wherein said first image processing device comprises:

first registration means for registering registration information for a user who is authorized to use said first image processing device;

input means for entering user information and a first operating

instruction about image processing for said first image processing device, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation;

first authentication means for employing the registration information registered by said first registration means and the user information entered by said input means to determine whether the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user;

transmission means for, based on results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to said second image processing device the user information and a second operating instruction about image processing entered by the user, wherein the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing operation, and

wherein said second image processing device comprises:

second registration means for registering registration information for a user who is permitted to use said second image processing device;

reception means for receiving the user information and the second operating instruction for said second image processing device from said first image processing device;

second authentication means for employing the information registered by said second registration means and the user information received by said

reception means to determine whether the second operating instruction for printing is authorized for the user; and

determination means for employing results obtained by said second

authentication means to determine whether the second operating instruction received by said reception means is to be accepted,

wherein when (a) said first authentication means determines that the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user, and (b) said determination means determines that the user is permitted to perform the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by said first image processing device and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by said second image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 12-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An image processing communication method of an image processing apparatus that performs an image processing service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing for a different image processing apparatus, comprising:

a registration step of registering registration information for a user who is

authorized to use the image processing apparatus;

an input step of entering user information and the first operating instruction for the different image processing apparatus, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation, and the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing operation;

a first authentication step of employing the user information entered and a registration table, in which the registration information is registered, to determine whether the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results of said first authentication step, transmitting to the different image processing apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered;

a second authentication step of obtaining from the different image processing apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether the second operating instruction for printing is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing the results obtained in said second authentication step to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing apparatus in conjunction with the different image processing apparatus to perform the first and second operating instructions of the image processing service,

wherein when (a) it is determined in said first authentication step that the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user, and (b) it is determined in said determination step that the user is permitted to use the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by the image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by the different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A communication method according to claim 16, wherein the registration information in the registration table and the user information each include[[s]] at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A communication method according to claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein the second operating instruction is an instruction for printing image data read by the scanner using a printer function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A communication method according to

claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for storing, in a predetermined area, image data read by the scanner using a storage function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A communication method according to

claim 16, further comprising:

a read step of employing a scanner to read a document,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for transmitting, to a predetermined destination, image data read by the scanner by using a facsimile transmission function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): An image processing communication method in which an image processing apparatus connected to a network performs, in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction about image processing, an image processing service provided by a second operating instruction about image processing, comprising:

a registration step of registering registration information for a user who is

permitted to use the image processing apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from the different apparatus, user information and the second operating instruction for the image processing apparatus, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation, and the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing operation;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table, in which the registration information is registered, to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction for scanning is received after the first operating instruction for printing is authenticated to be performed on the different image processing apparatus; and

a determination step of employing results of said authentication step to determine whether the second operating instruction is to be accepted, wherein when (a) it is determined in said authentication step that the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user, and (b) it is determined in said determination step that the user is permitted to perform the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by the image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A communication method according to

claim 21, wherein the registration information and the user information each includes at least a user ID and a password.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

an output step of outputting data to a printer,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for outputting, from the printer, image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a storage step of storing data in a storage device,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for storing, in the storage device, image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A communication method according to claim 21, further comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting data by facsimile to a predetermined

destination,

wherein the second operating instruction [[is]] further includes an instruction for transmitting, to the predetermined destination, image data read by a scanner function of the different image processing apparatus.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A communication method of a communication system, which includes at least a first image processing device that performs an image processing service in association with a second image processing device, comprising:

performing at the first image processing device:

a first registration step of registering registration information for a user who is authorized to use the first image processing device;

an input step of entering user information and a first operating instruction for the first image processing device, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation;

a first authentication step of employing the registration information registered at said first registration step and the user information entered at said input step to determine whether the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user;
and

a transmission step of, based on results obtained at said first

authentication step, transmitting to the second image processing device the user information and a second operating instruction about image processing, wherein the second operating instruction is an operation for performing a printing operation, and performing at the second image processing device:

a second registration step of registering registration information for a user who is permitted to use the second image processing device;

a reception step of receiving user information and a request for the operating instruction for the second device from the first device;

a second authentication step of employing the information registered [[at]] in said second registration step and the user information received [[at]] in said reception step to determine whether the second operating instruction for printing is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing results obtained [[at]] in said second authentication step to determine whether the second operating instruction received [[at]] in said reception step is to be accepted,

wherein when (a) it is determined in said first authentication step that the first operating for scanning is authorized for the user, and (b) it is determined in said determination step that the user is permitted to perform the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by the first image

processing device and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by the second image processing device after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 27-30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A storage medium storing a computer-readable program for implementing a communication method of an image processing apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction about image processing and a second operating instruction about image processing for a different image processing apparatus, wherein the method comprises:

a registration step of registering registration information for a user who is authorized to use the image processing apparatus;

an input step of inputting user information and the first operating instruction for the image processing apparatus, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation, and the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing operation;

a first authentication step of employing the user information inputted and a registration table, in which the registration information is registered, to determine whether the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user;

a transmission step of, based on results of said first authentication step, transmitting to the different image processing apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information inputted;

a second authentication step of obtaining from the different image processing apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information transmitted in said transmission step, to determine whether the second operating instruction for printing is authorized for the user; and

a determination step of employing the results obtained in said second authentication step to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the image processing apparatus in conjunction with the different image processing apparatus to perform the first and second operating instructions of the image processing service, wherein when (a) it is determined in said first authentication step that the first operating instruction for scanning is authorized for the user, and (b) it is determined in said determination step that the user is permitted to use the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating instruction for scanning is performed by the image processing apparatus and the second operating instruction for printing is performed by the different image processing apparatus after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 32-35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A storage medium storing a computer-readable program for implementing a communication method in which an image processing apparatus connected to a network performs, in cooperation with a different image processing apparatus that performs a first operating instruction about image processing, a service provided by a second operating instruction about image processing, the method comprising:

a registration step of registering registration information for a user who is permitted to use the image processing apparatus;

a reception step of receiving, from the different apparatus, user information and the second operating instruction for the image processing apparatus, wherein the first operating instruction is an instruction for performing a scanning operation, and the second operating instruction is an instruction for performing a printing operation;

an authentication step of employing the user information and a registration table, in which the registration information is registered, to determine whether the user is an authorized user, wherein the second operating instruction is received after the first operating instruction for scanning is authenticated to be performed on the different apparatus; and

a determination step of employing results of said authentication step to determine whether the second operating instruction is to be accepted, wherein when (a) it is

determined in said authentication step that the first operating instruction for scanning is
authorized for the user, and (b) it is determined in said determination step that the user is
permitted to perform the second operating instruction for printing, the first operating
instruction for scanning is performed by the different image processing apparatus and the
second operating instruction for printing is performed by the image processing apparatus
after the first operating instruction is performed.

Claims 37-40 (Canceled).